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Programme 19
Human rights

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Overall orientation

19.1 The purpose of the United Nations human rights programme is to promote universal enjoyment of all human rights by giving practical effect to the will and resolve of the world community as expressed by the United Nations. Its mandate derives from Articles 1, 13, 55 and 62 of the Charter of the United Nations; the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/121; the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as defined in resolution 48/141; international human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations, including the Declaration on the Right to Development; and the resolutions and decisions of policy-making bodies, including General Assembly resolution 926 (X) on advisory services in the field of human rights.

19.2 Within the Secretariat, substantive responsibility for the programme is vested in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The Office acts as the focal point for and provides the leading role on all human rights activities of the United Nations.

19.3 The Office will continue to strive for the universal realization of all human rights for all through the implementation of the Charter's provisions on human rights and of the international human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations. The decisions of policy-making organs will guide this effort. Emphasis will be placed on the enhancement of cooperation at the international, regional and national levels. Priority will continue to be given to emphasizing the importance of human rights on the international and national agendas and to upholding the principle of equality and non-discrimination, to combating discrimination on grounds of race, sex, language or religion, to advancing the rights of children and women, to spreading education about human rights at all levels of education, to responding to the needs for protection of the vulnerable, and to addressing situations of international concern identified by the Commission on Human Rights and other pertinent United Nations organs.

19.4 Increased support will be provided to Member States in national capacity-building, human rights education and training through advisory services, technical cooperation activities and field activities and operations. Human rights will be addressed in an integrated, interrelated and interdependent manner, combining civil and political rights with economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, by stimulating and coordinating action across the whole United Nations system. The Office will continue to provide support to human rights organs and treaty-monitoring bodies and to strengthen, rationalize and streamline the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 48/141. OHCHR will continue to take gender fully into account in the development and application of norms and procedures so that violations against women and girls are clearly identified and the protection offered under the law is adequate and equitable.

Subprogramme 1
Right to development, research and analysis

Objectives

19.5 The primary objectives of this subprogramme are to realize the right to development and to strengthen respect for human rights.

Strategy

19.6 The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Research and Right to Development Branch. The Branch will focus on: (a) pursuing and further developing the existing integrated and multidimensional strategy for the implementation and promotion of the right to development; (b) strengthening its research and analysis capability in order to increase knowledge, awareness and understanding of human rights issues; and (c) enhancing effectiveness of action taken at the international, regional and national levels to promote and protect human rights.

19.7 The integrated and multidimensional strategy on the right to development will be pursued and strengthened through close cooperation and partnership with United Nations organizations to ensure that the right to development would be an integral part of all the programmes and activities undertaken by those organizations. National implementation of the right to development will be assisted through coordinated action taken by United Nations offices and agencies, at

the request of the country concerned, to support national capacity-building, particularly in the context of promoting awareness and building national capacities to eliminate obstacles to development resulting from failure to observe civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights. Cooperation with international and national development agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council will be strengthened.

19.8 Research and analysis will be undertaken, within the framework of the indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights, with a view to facilitating the implementation of standards, the work of treaty bodies, special rapporteurs and other bodies and the preparation of new standards; to ensuring recognition, at the national and international levels, of economic, social and cultural rights; to promoting democracy; and to strengthening national human rights institutions and procedures for the rule of law. The Branch will also aim at contributing to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and new forms of discrimination and strengthening the recognition of the human rights of women and children and the protection of vulnerable groups such as minorities, migrant workers and indigenous people. The outcome of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, scheduled to take place in 2001, would provide additional elements for the work of the Branch. Activities also relate to situations presenting gross and persistent violations of human rights, and to the provision of assistance in setting up or strengthening institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

19.9 Research and analysis capability will be strengthened through efficient information management supported by information technology. The basic components of the Human Rights Information Computerized Analysis Environment (HURICANE), an OHCHR Intranet information network system, would be developed and integrated utilizing a search engine.

Expected accomplishments

19.10 Expected accomplishments would include:

(a) Wider integration/inclusion of a human rights approach, in general, and the promotion and protection of the right to development as an integral part of fundamental human rights, in particular, across the human rights programme and the relevant programmes of work of United Nations departments/offices and the specialized agencies and of major international, regional and national development agencies, organizations and forums;

(b) Implementation of the outcome of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

(c) Enhanced awareness, knowledge and understanding of human rights;

(d) Improved implementation of resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights dealing with the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as of the outcome of the World Conference against Racism;

(e) Increased recognition of the rights of women and children and strengthening of the protection of vulnerable groups such as minorities, migrant workers and indigenous people.

Indicators of achievement

19.11 Indicators of achievement would include:

(a) Number of cooperation agreements signed and implemented between OHCHR and major international and regional development agencies and organizations;

(b) Level of compliance or non-compliance with implementation of resolutions or decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights;

(c) Extent to which the right to development has been included in the work programmes of the departments/offices of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental organizations.

Subprogramme 2
Supporting human rights bodies and organs

Objectives

19.12 The objectives of this subprogramme are to achieve universal ratification of the six main human

rights treaties currently in force, as well as ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and to facilitate the effective functioning of the human rights treaty bodies and human rights organs and procedures established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments.

Strategy

19.13 The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Support Services Branch. The strategy will include:

(a) Provision of technical and substantive support to the various intergovernmental organs, treaty bodies and expert bodies and mechanisms with a view to facilitating their deliberations and contributing to the rationalization and increased effectiveness of their functioning. Of particular importance would be the need to strengthen the analytical capacity of the human rights treaty-monitoring bodies in reviewing the States parties' reports submitted periodically under international treaties and in examining individual communications;

(b) Facilitating the follow-up to the recommendations of the treaty bodies at the national level;

(c) Formulating plans of action to strengthen the implementation of the human rights instruments;

(d) Promotion of proposals regarding the improvement of existing procedures, including the procedure set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII);

(e) Maximizing the assistance provided to the intended beneficiaries of the voluntary funds established to aid victims of human rights violations, such as victims of torture and slavery; to combat racism and racial discrimination; and for indigenous populations.

Expected accomplishments

19.14 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) increase in the number of States parties to the principal treaties and in the number of ratifications; (b) a reduction in the backlog of States parties' reports and individual complaints currently before the reviewing mechanisms; (c) timely delivery of required substantive and logistical input and support to treaty bodies, and intergovernmental and expert bodies; and (d) improved assistance provided to beneficiaries of voluntary trust funds established to aid victims of human rights violations.

Indicators of achievement

19.15 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) increase in the number of States signing and/or ratifying the principal treaties; (b) degree of satisfaction expressed by participants and observers about the conduct of meetings; (c) a reduction in the time lapse between submission of a State party report and its examination by the relevant treaty-monitoring body, or the receipt of a complaint and its review by the relevant mechanism; (d) number of grant recipients and reduction in the delays for delivery of assistance; and (e) increase in number of individual complaints processed.

Subprogramme 3
Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities

Objectives

19.16 The main objectives are: (a) to prevent human rights violations and to promote and protect human rights through support of the United Nations human rights monitoring mechanisms; (b) to ensure the effectiveness and quality of human rights field work by providing substantive and methodological support to field presences; and (c) to strengthen national capacities and infrastructures of countries, at the request of their Governments, for the protection and promotion of all human rights.

Strategy

19.17 This subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Activities and Programmes Branch.

19.18 The Branch will provide advisory services and technical cooperation for the design and implementation of regional strategies for the protection and promotion of human rights, in close cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, regional and subregional organizations, Governments and civil societies. In line with the regional strategies, assistance

will be provided to requesting countries: (a) to develop comprehensive national plans of action to promote and protect human rights, including in national capacities and in human rights education; (b) to support the establishment of national human rights institutions; and (c) to raise awareness and promote specialized knowledge about human rights through the organization of training courses, seminars and workshops at the national, subregional and regional levels, providing human rights fellowships and the production of a wide range of educational, training and information material.

19.19 In the area of support to fact-finding bodies, assistance will be provided to special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and working groups mandated by policy-making bodies through the preparation of information regarding alleged violations and situations or their review, the preparation of urgent appeals and other communications with concerned Governments, the provision of substantive and operational support for missions and meetings and the provision to policy-making bodies of analytical information on human rights situations.

19.20 In order to ensure quick response to immediate threats of human rights violations, an emergency response task force would be established within the Secretariat. Other mechanisms may be established for the same purpose following consultations with Member States.

19.21 With respect to field activities, specific strategies, including exit strategies, would be designed and implemented, while maintaining contacts with Governments, appropriate sectors of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, civil society and others. Field presence strategies would include activities to enhance national capacities through the development of human rights training programmes for national officials and civil society, and for international field staff and appropriate components of other United Nations field operations.

Expected accomplishments

19.22 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) adoption of national legislation and practices; (b) adoption and implementation of regional strategies for the protection and promotion of human rights; (c) enhanced awareness and increase in specialized knowledge about human rights; and (d) prompt action by policy-making bodies and the United Nations in response to immediate threats of human rights violations.

Indicators of achievement

19.23 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) enumeration of regional human rights strategies adopted; (b) Enumeration of ratifications of human rights treaties; (c) enumeration of national human rights action plans and national human rights institutions established; (d) number of persons trained, participants in seminars/workshops, and fellowships granted; and (e) enumeration of situations where human rights violations were prevented.

Legislative mandates

Programme 19
Human rights

General Assembly resolutions

48/121	World Conference on Human Rights
48/141	High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights
53/166	Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (Subprogrammes 1 and 2)
54/138	Violence against women migrant workers (Subprogrammes 1 and 2)
54/166	Protection of migrants (Subprogrammes 1 and 2)
54/168	Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes (Subprogrammes 1 and 3)
54/169	Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification (Subprogrammes 1 and 2)
54/173	Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization (Subprogrammes 1 and 3)
54/174	Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

Commission on Human Rights resolution

1994/95	World Conference on Human Rights (Subprogrammes 1 and 2)

Subprogramme 1
Right to development, research and analysis

General Assembly resolutions

41/128	Declaration on the Right to Development
53/142	Strengthening of the rule of law
53/146	Human rights and extreme poverty
54/133	Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls
54/134	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
54/135	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
54/137	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

54/141	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action
54/148	The girl child
54/149	The rights of the child
54/150	International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
54/153	Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
54/154	Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance
54/155	Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination
54/159	Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance
54/160	Human rights and cultural diversity
54/162	Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities
54/163	Human rights in the administration of justice
54/164	Human rights and terrorism
54/165	Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights
54/170	Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
54/172	Human rights and unilateral coercive measures
54/175	The right to development
54/181	Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

Economic and Social Council decision

1999/12	Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Commission on Human Rights resolutions

1999/22	Effects on the full enjoyment of human rights of the economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development
1999/25	Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the

	developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights
1999/34	Impunity
1999/40	Traffic in women and girls
1999/41	Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nation system
1999/46	Contemporary forms of slavery
1999/61	Question of the death penalty
1999/65	Fundamental standards of humanity

Subprogramme 2
Supporting human rights bodies and organs

General Assembly resolutions

2106 A (XX)	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
2200 (XXI)	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
39/46	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
44/25	Convention on the Rights of the Child
53/138	Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights
54/157	International Covenants on Human Rights
54/158	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1503 (XLVIII)	Procedure for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms
1979/36	Further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms
1990/48	Enlargement of the Commission on Human Rights and further promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms
1999/256	Rationalization of the work of the Commission on Human Rights

Subprogramme 3
Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities

General Assembly resolutions

926 (X)	Advisory services in the field of human rights
53/148	Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights
54/151	Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination
54/161	United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights
54/176	National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights
54/180	Human rights and mass exoduses

Economic and Social Council resolution

1235 (XLII)	Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories

Commission on Human Rights resolutions

1995/53	Advisory services and the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights
1998/74	Human rights and thematic procedures